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COOPERATION WITH STATES AND INDUSTRY

(Comments presented before Japanese Government representatives -- October 25, 1955)

A visitor dropping into the Department of Agriculture buildings here might be expected to assume that most of the work of the Department is conducted here in Washington, D. C. Such a conclusion would be far from being realistic.

Of the approximately 58,000 full-time employees of the USDA, only about 8,000 are located here in Washington. An additional 2,000 are at the Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville. The remainder, over 80 percent, are at work out in the various States. The Department's organization might be likened to a wheel, with the Washington segment at the small hub, and the field locations as the spokes that support and serve as a connecting link with the farm people and others who are served.

This arrangement is essential to enable the Department to perform its various functions effectively. This is true both because the Nation's agriculture is highly variable as between regions, and certain functions have to be performed "on the spot." Also because such a large proportion of the Department's activities are carried out cooperatively with the States through their State colleges of agriculture and State departments of agriculture or markets or with private industry to a lesser degree.

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The role of the Department of Agriculture is to do for people what they cannot do for themselves; to stimulate their efforts; to bring together, coordinate and see that the best possible use is made of the assets that Agriculture has at its command. The key note in this is cooperation and teamwork.

Teamwork implies sharing the load. That is the principle the Department employs in its work with the States and with Industry.

I will give you some illustrations of cooperation in four major fields of work -- research, extension, regulatory, and service.

RESEARCH

A large part of research carried on by the Department is in cooperation with the State Agricultural Experiment Stations of the Land-Grant Colleges. Federal grants-in-aid to State Experiment Stations was 24.8 million dollars for the current year, or approximately one-fourth of the total amount spent by the States for research.

The Agricultural Research Service coordinates the research among the States and participates in planning of cooperative regional research among the State Experiment Stations.

Research is also conducted under contract with various public and private agencies and institutions.

In its research program, the Department is making good use of research contracts whereby public and private institutions or corporations conduct various studies. These arrangements not only broaden the total national resources for research, but also help to avoid duplication.

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Extensive use is made of research advisory committees made up of representative growers, processors, distributors, and consumers. These committees meet with USDA scientists and administrators periodically to evaluate the research programs of the Department.

EXTENSION

Research is producing results that other Federal and State agencies, and Industry use. It profits the farmer, the Department, or the Industry little for the Department to do good research or have other good programs to help farm people, unless the results of research and the possibilities of the programs are explained to farm people so they may apply them to their particular situation.

The responsibility of getting research results adopted, falls largely on the Cooperative Extension Service of the USDA and the Land-Grant Colleges. The arrangement between the Federal Government and the States in conducting extension work is in the nature of a partnership. The extension program is a joint endeavor and the funds are provided by Federal, State, and local sources. Federal funds for agricultural extension work amounted to 39.7 millions dollars or approximately 40 percent of the total amount from Federal, State and county sources.

The Department and the Colleges are operating in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding. In this Memorandum: "the Department agrees to conduct through the Land-Grant Colleges all educational work that the Department is authorized to carry on in the State, including that covered by the Smith-Lever Act, and other programs that are primarily educational."

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The Federal Extension Service, as an integral part of the Department of Agriculture, has responsibility for providing leadership in all educational programs under the jurisdiction of the Department. The Federal Extension Service is responsible for the administration of the Smith-Lever Act and for providing program leadership and coordination of Extension work in the States and Territories.

The Department is authorized to administer many programs and provide many services which must be explained to farm people if they are to take advantage of them. These include agricultural adjustment, conservation assistance, water facilities, rural telephone, pest control and many others. The operating phases of these programs and services are the responsibility of several agencies of the Department. It is the responsibility of the Federal Extension Service to coordinate the educational phases of these programs and services within the Department, as well as through the State Extension Services.

Extension workers thus include in their activities, educational support to the programs of the Agricultural Research Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Conservation Program Service, the Agricultural Marketing Service, and many other USDA and State agencies. The Department depends on the Extension Service to explain the provisions of the many programs designed to improve agriculture, which the Department is authorized to conduct, and to help people make the maximum use of them in their farming operations.

The Extension Service employee in the county is known as the County Extension Agent or County Agricultural Agent. He is a joint Federal-State employee, being paid from Federal, State and local funds.

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The basic job of this agent is getting new facts and research results into the organization and operation of the farm to bring about increased efficiency in production and marketing of farm products and in reducing costs.

County agents also help inform farmers of changes in farm programs such as acreage allotments, marketing quotas, changes from year to year in the Agricultural Conservation Program practices and requirements, and the services available through Soil Conservation Service and Farmers Home Administration. Farmers seek assistance from County Agents in organizing for rural telephone service or activities such as a grasshopper control program, a new soil conservation district, a new marketing agreement, or an intensified brucellosis control program. County Agents attend and often help organize inter-USDA-agency meetings to improve coordination. Their cooperation is sought by Soil Conservation District supervisors or Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees or Farmers Home Administration county committees, in the development of a continuous educational program. They assist with the drought and other emergency programs. All this is a necessary part of the educational leadership job of the County agent.

An excellent example of how the industries supplying agricultural materials -- machinery, petroleum, fertilizer, etc., support Extension work is the work of the National Committee on 4-H Club work. Through the Committee, these industries contribute funds for various program activities, materials and awards for achievement in 4-H Club projects.

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REGULATORY

Regulatory activities are directed toward insect and plant disease control of crops including inspection to detect and appraise infestations, supervision of treatments required by plant quarantines, applications of pesticides, and use of other methods of combating infestations; protective measures to prevent the introduction from abroad of insect pests and plant diseases; and administration and enforcement of the Federal Acts.

Regulatory activities deal with measures devised to prevent the introduction into this country of communicable livestock diseases of foreign origin; the prevention of spread of diseases through interstate shipments of livestock; control and eradication of livestock diseases; and assurance of adequate supplies and quality biologics such as hog cholera virus and serum for protection of swine.

Among current field activities on livestock are testing of herds of cattle for tuberculosis and brucellosis, and eradication or control of fever ticks of cattle, vesicular exanthema of swine, blue tongue and scrapie of sheep, and scabies of livestock.

Federal meat inspection is another regulatory activity. This consists of numerous types of inspection to insure the wholesomeness of domestic and imported meat or meat products. Sanitation in accordance with advanced principles of meat hygiene is required. The service is available to the industry upon request.

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The Department and the States also cooperate on activities generally regarded as service functions. These functions include activities such as the market news service which provides timely and reliable market reports on all major agricultural commodities to help farmers determine when and where and at what price to sell their products. <u>Inspection</u>, classing, grading, and standardization services to develop standards of quality for agricultural commodities is also carried out. Regulatory activities also cover administration of laws aimed at protecting farmers and others from financial loss resulting from deceptive, careless, and fraudulent marketing practices.

The Crop and Livestock Reporting Service is also a cooperative program with State Statisticians as joint Federal-State exployees in most instances. This consists of gathering and publishing statistics for the Nation on acreage, yield, production, and supplies of crops, and numbers, production, value, and utilization of livestock and livestock products, and such related data as prices received and paid by farmers, and farm employment and wage rates.

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Example of Cooperation in Forestry

Three-fourths of all the commercial quality forest land in the United States is privately owned and one-fourth is owned by States, counties, cities and the Federal Government. There are $l_{1}^{\frac{1}{4}}$ million forest landowners and over 50,000 forest industries. The programs of the Department of Agriculture are designed to reach this great number of landowners and industries usually by working through and with the State Foresters and the Land-Grant Colleges.

Forty-four of our forty-eight States have forestry administrative organizations in which States the major activity is forest fire control. The State Foresters, with the help of the Department of Agriculture, protect 383 million acres.

Another function which the Department carries out in cooperation with the States and private landowners is tree planting. In 1954, about 446,000 acres or, to use your Japanese term -- 190,000 cho, were planted under a cooperative program in which the Department shares with the States the cost of the seedlings. It is an interesting fact that millions of these trees were purchased by paper companies and distributed free to small landowners through County Agricultural Agents.

Two methods of helping forest landowners are used -- extension or educational method and individual assistance. Both are needed, one complements the other. Education work is the function of the State Extension Services working through their County Agricultural Agents. Direct assistance is provided by the State Foresters with the cooperation of the Forest Service.

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Example of Cooperation in Seed Improvement

To a great extent, the breeding of improved crop varieties is done by the Experiment Stations. Once the new variety has been developed, the supply of seed must be increased in such a manner as to preserve its purity and in such quantity as to supply the farmers' requirements. Here is where the Extension Service makes its major contribution.

To acquaint farmers with the new variety, Extension workers will use demonstrations, tours to experiment fields, the newspaper, radio, television, personal contact with farmers, and all other available means to show the advantages of planting the improved variety. As a rule, farmers are receptive because their experience with this type of help from Extension has been good.

To assure seed supplies, farmers most generally rely on their seed certification program. Here we have a standard pattern for producing seed in such a manner as to preserve its purity, including certain necessary inspection and testing features. These regulations fit into the State and Federal seed laws. Enforcement rests with the regulatory agency.

Once produced, this certified seed will move to farmers both directly and through commercial seed dealers. There is a trend with certain crops (alfalfa, grass and other forage crops) for growers in one area (California, Oregon, Idaho) to produce seed for shipment to dealers elsewhere for distribution. There is another common relationship with dealers. They like to buy seed crops grown from certified seed stocks for they recognize its superiority. Thus the effect of good seed is spread still further.

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